


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes to direct the Mayor to establish a truancy pilot for the purpose of referring students with unexcused absences to the Department of Human Services and documenting attendance and academic outcomes of students receiving interventions from the Department of Human Services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Pilot Truancy Reduction Emergency Amendment Act of 2024.”

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, effective September 19, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-17; D.C. Official Code § 38-208), is amended by adding a new subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

“(c-1)(1)(A) By August 12, 2024, the Mayor shall identify 5 secondary educational institutions in the District that had a truancy rate greater than 50% in the 2023-2024 school year to participate in a truancy pilot with the Department of Human Services (“DHS”) during School Year 2024-2025.

27 “(B) The Mayor shall notify the identified educational institutions of their
28 participation in the truancy pilot at least 10 business days before the first day of instruction in
29 School Year 2024-2025. The notice shall include appropriate agency contacts, timelines, and
30 procedures for complying with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

31 “(2) The 5 secondary educational institutions identified pursuant to paragraph (1)
32 of this subsection shall refer each student who is 14 years of age through 17 years of age to DHS
33 no later than 2 school days after the accrual of 15 unexcused full school day absences within a
34 school year.

35 “(3) By March 31, 2025, DHS shall publish a preliminary report, and by August
36 15 , 2025, DHS shall publish a final report that:

37 “(A) Describes the interventions and services provided through the
38 truancy pilot;

39 “(B) Provides the 5 most common reasons for unexcused absences for the
40 students referred to DHS, such as housing instability, transportation issues, or medical
41 emergencies;

42 “(C) Presents aggregate data on the 5 most common truancy intervention
43 services or programs that students referred to DHS utilized; and

44 “(D) Provides an analysis that compares:

45 “(i) The attendance outcomes, academic performance, and
46 delinquency status of students referred to DHS to his or her attendance outcomes, academic
47 performance, and delinquency status during the same time period in the prior school year;

48 “(ii) The attendance outcomes, academic performance, and
49 delinquency status of students referred to DHS before and after the DHS referral during the
50 applicable time period for School Year 2024-2025; and

51 “(iii) The attendance outcomes and academic performance of
52 schools participating in the truancy pilot with the attendance and academic performance during
53 School Year 2024-2025 of non-participating primary and secondary schools that are socio-
54 demographically similar to participating schools.

55 “(4) For purposes of paragraph (3) of this subsection, the term “delinquency
56 status” means whether a minor student was arrested by a law enforcement official during the
57 time period analyzed in the report.

58 “(5) Schools participating in the truancy pilot shall be exempt from the
59 requirements of subsection (c) of this section for minor students who are 14 through 17 years of
60 age.”.

61 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

62 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
63 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
64 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

65 Sec. 4. Effective date.

66 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
67 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
68 90 days after the applicability date of this act, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of
69 the District of Columbia in section 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
70 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).

